

CONNECTICUT'S BIFURCATED JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Judicial Branch:

Court Support Services Division (CSSD)

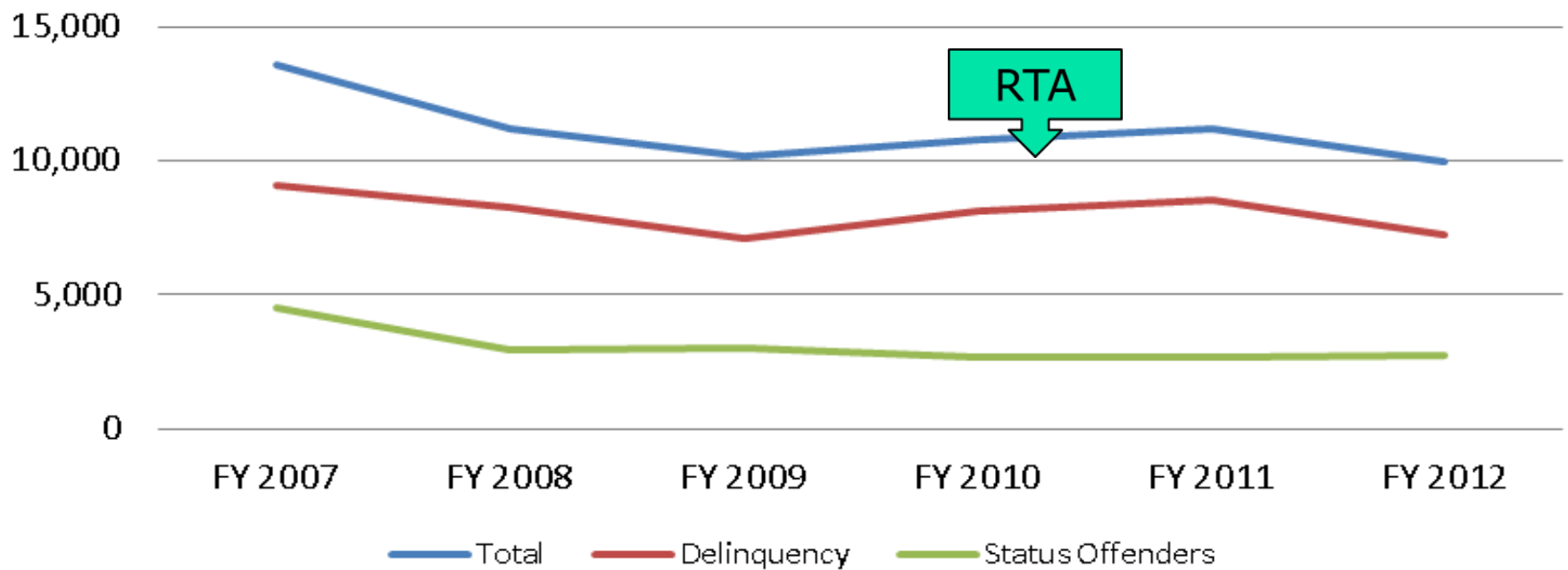
- Responsible for youth from referral to court through adjudication

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

- Responsible for youth from Commitment through Re-entry
- Also responsible for front end diversion (Juvenile Review Boards)

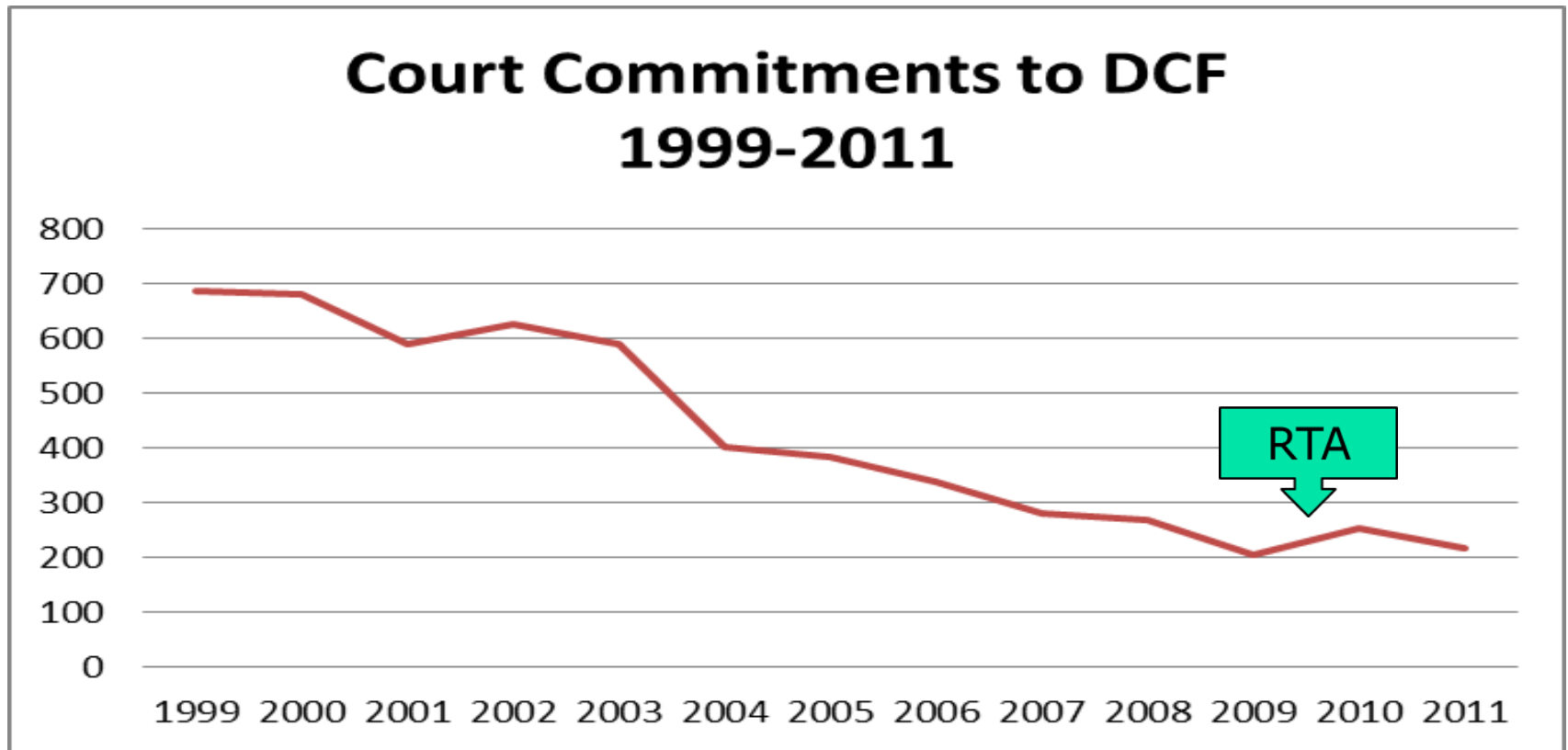
Court Intake

Juvenile Court Intake FY 2007-2012



The number of juveniles referred to the court is down 27% since 2007

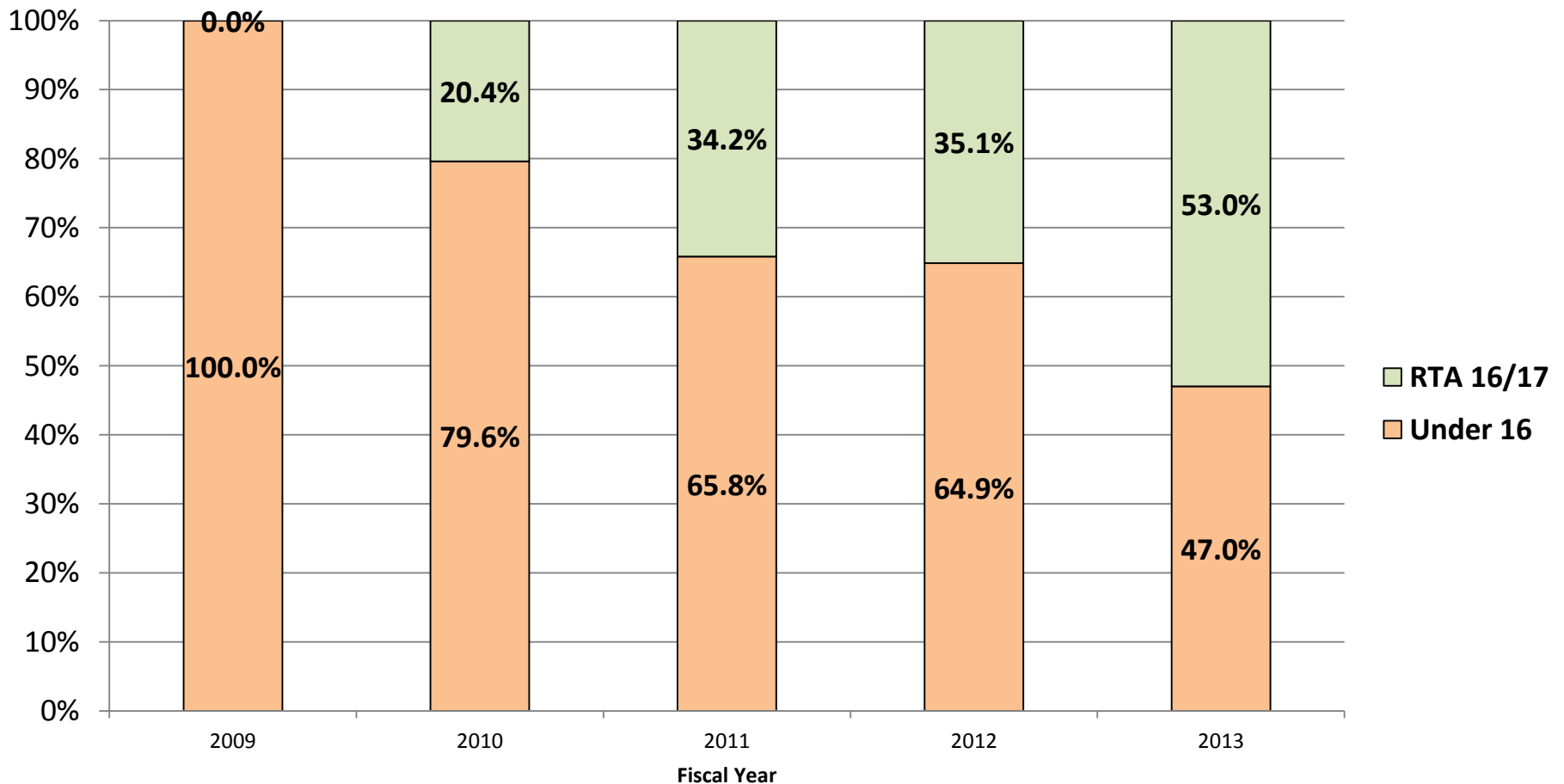
DCF Commitments



Commitments have dropped 69% since 1999

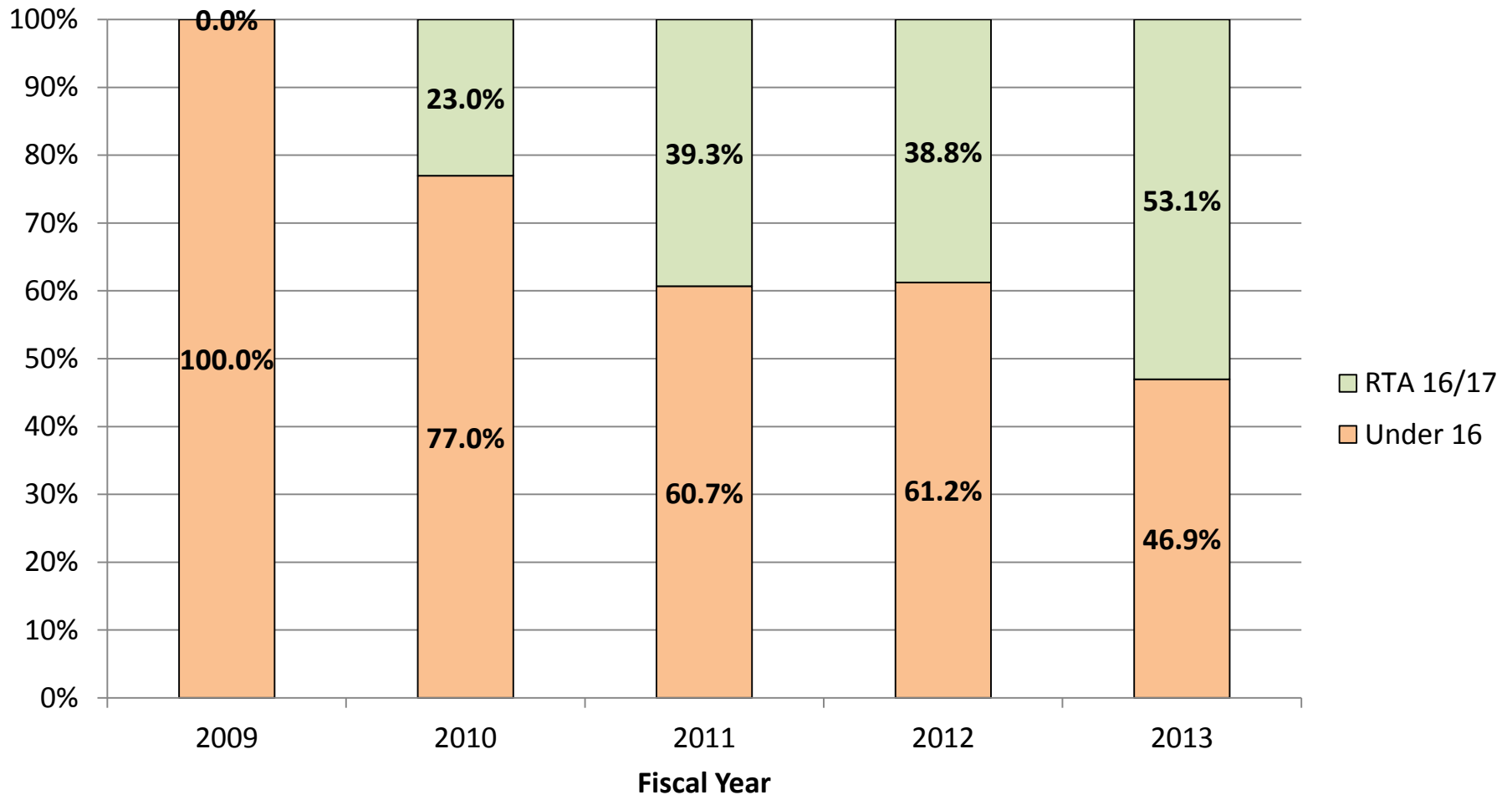
Juveniles Referred for Delinquency Charges

Delinquent Court Intake By Age Group and Fiscal Year



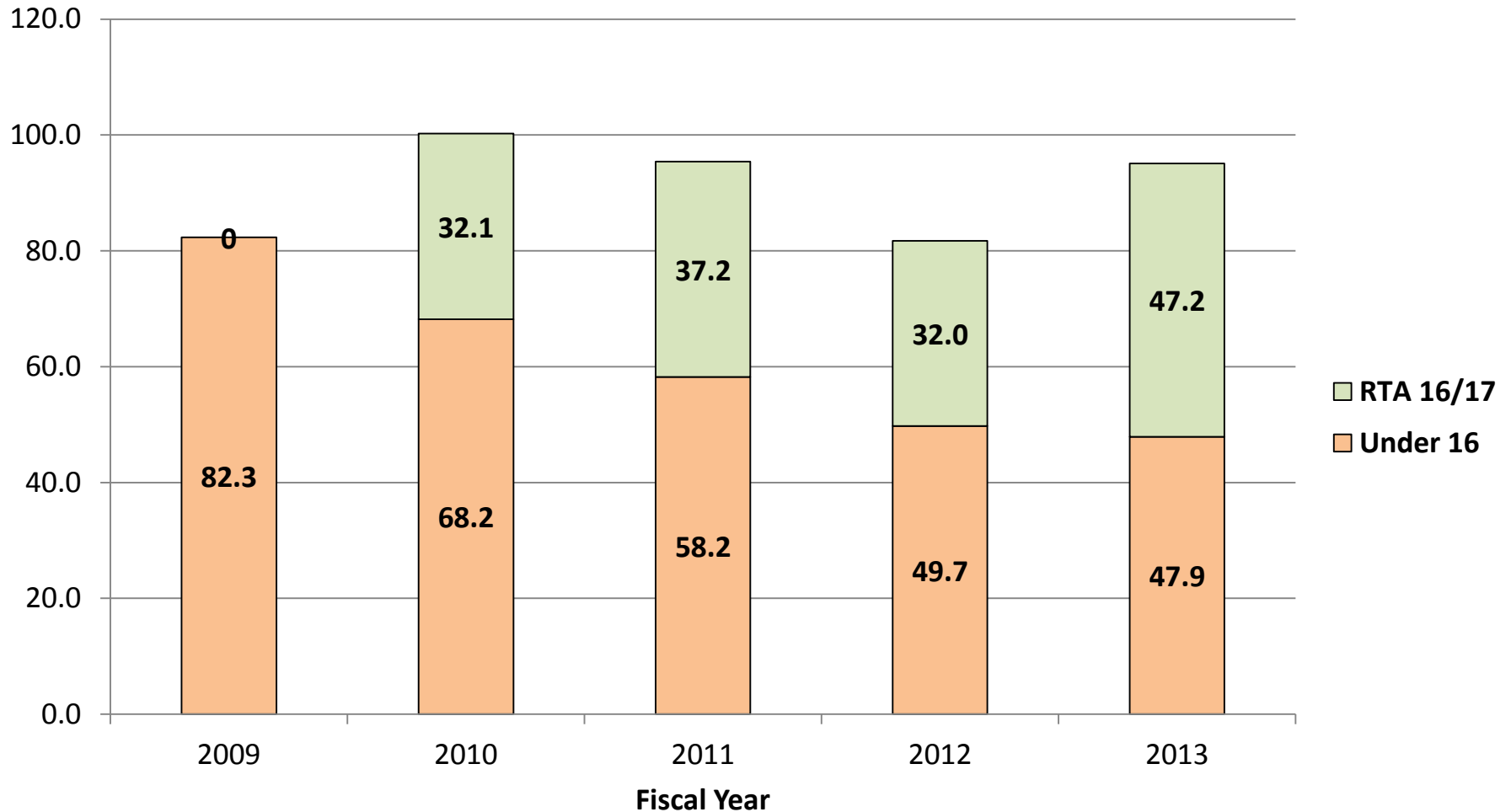
Juveniles Admitted to Detention Centers

Detained Clients By Age Group and Fiscal Year



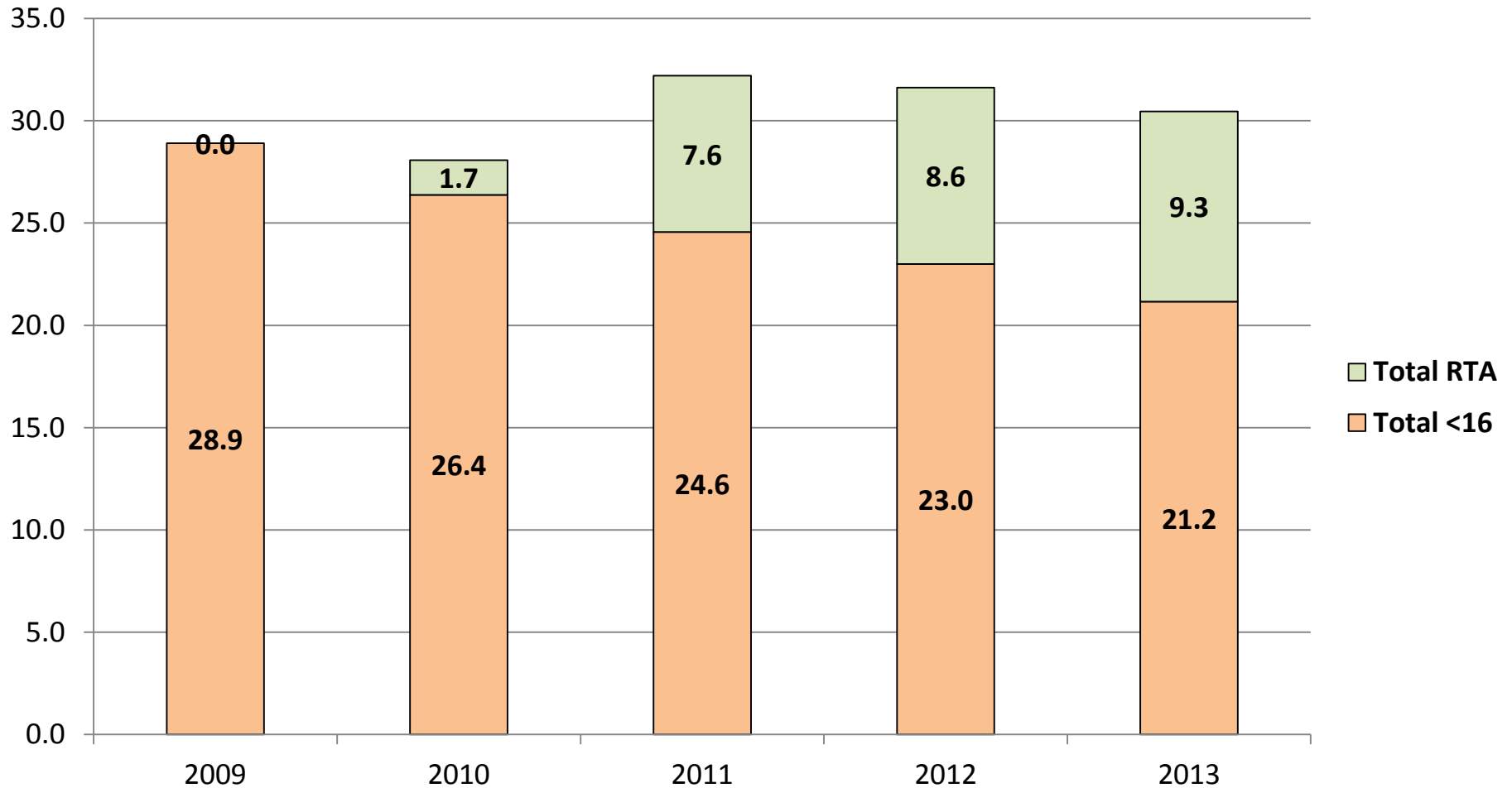
Average Daily Population Detention

Average Daily Detention Population By Age Group and Fiscal Year

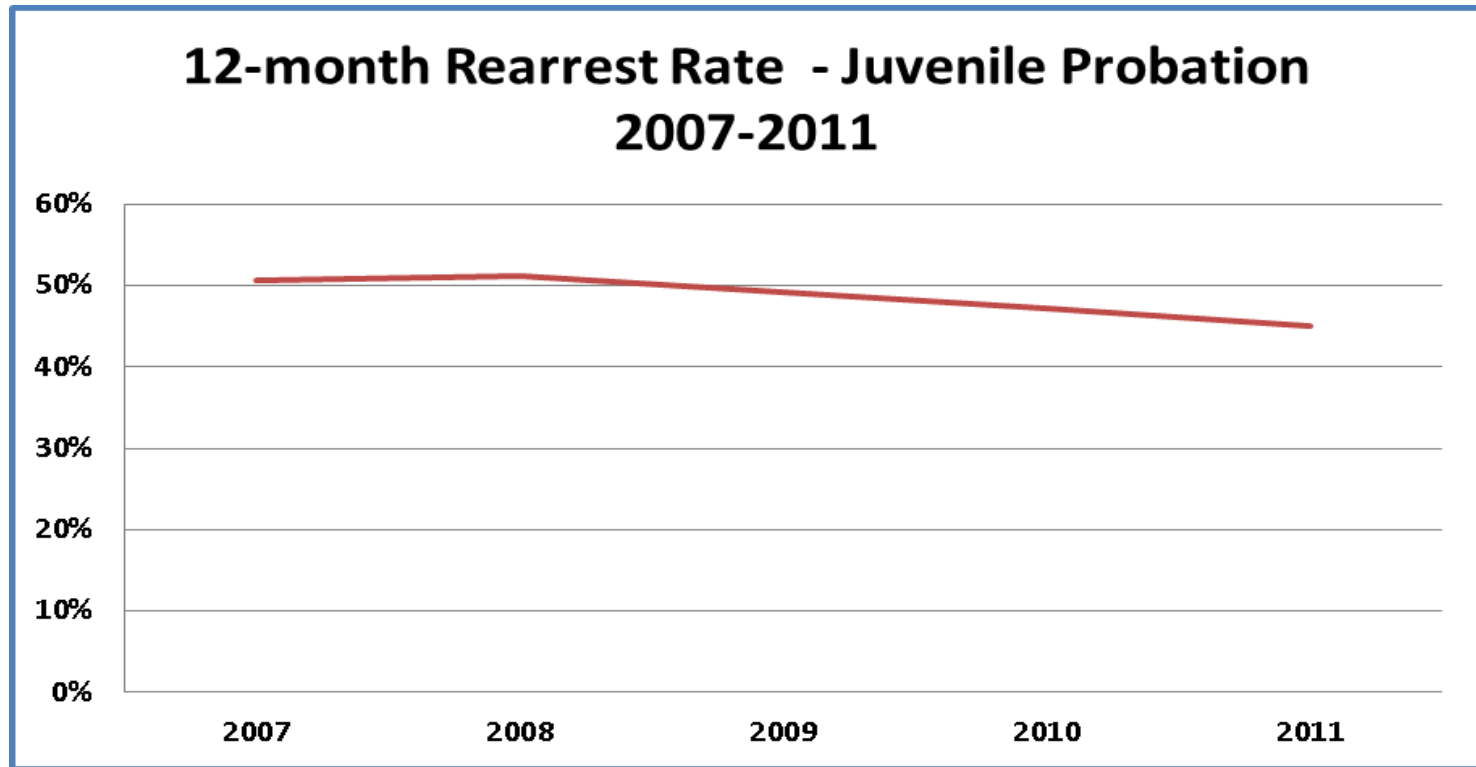


Average Caseload Size Juvenile Probation

Average Caseload Per Officer by Age Group and
Fiscal Year

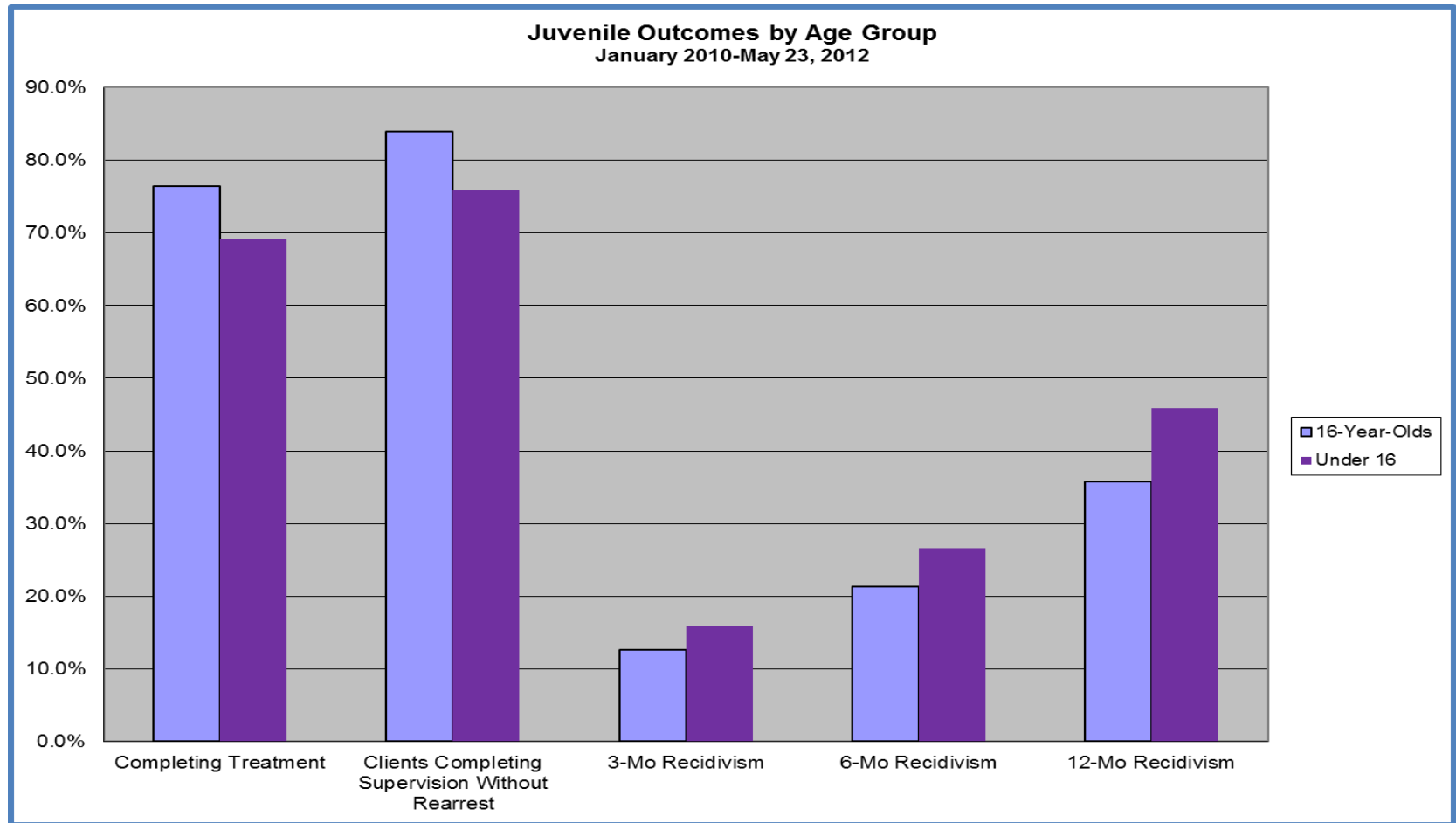


12-Month Rearrest Rate Juveniles on Supervision/Probation



Rearrest rates for juvenile probationers have dropped from 51% in 2007 to 45% in 2011

Raise the Age Probation Outcomes to Date



WHAT NEW POSITIONS WERE ADDED THROUGH 'RAISE THE AGE?'

- **57 Total: Various Juvenile Services positions**
 - ✓ 19 Juvenile Probation Officers
 - ✓ 5 Clinical Coordinators
 - ✓ 15 Juvenile Detention Officers
 - ✓ 4 contract oversight positions
 - ✓ Balance of positions to be hired in stages beginning 10/5/12 through 2/13/13

WHAT SERVICES HAVE BEEN ADDED FOR 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS, AND WHAT IS THE COST?

- Behavioral, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs (\$10.7M)
- Educational and Vocational (\$720k)
- Independent Living Skills (\$200k)
- Residential (\$94k)
- Other (\$640k)
- Infrastructure (\$50k)

WHAT NEW INITIATIVES AND/OR SERVICES ARE BEING PLANNED BY CSSD?

- Return referrals will continue
- RESTORE will be piloted in 3 cities
- JRB direct referrals to FSC
- Vocational training in Detention
- New Domestic Violence programming
- Mentoring

SYSTEMIC GAPS IN SERVICES

- Small community-based alternatives to detention, especially for younger teens
- Additional educational and vocational training / supports needed
- Access to advanced education or vocational training for older adolescents with HS diploma
- Family engagement for re-entry from detention to home / communities

SYSTEMIC GAPS IN SERVICES

(CONTINUED)

- Community-based and residential SA treatment, including access to detox and inpatient treatment
- Independent living skills training and supports, especially for youth with chronic issues and developmental disabilities
- Services for pregnant and parenting teens
- Services for Limited English Proficient (LEP) youth / families

PROGRAMS ADDED TO DCF SERVICE ARRAY IN RESPONSE TO RTA

PROGRAM	LOCATION	COST
Supportive Work Transition Program	Hartford	\$ 570,495
Machinist program	Manchester	\$ 50,749
STEP / JCMC	Statewide	\$ 3,382,811
Juvenile Review Board	Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Bloomfield, Windham	\$ 718,845
MST – PSB	Statewide	\$ 1,564,000
Summer Youth Employment	Statewide	\$ 400,000
JJIE / DCFIE	Statewide	\$ 1,958,695

DCF presentation to Juvenile Jurisdiction Planning and Oversight Coordinating Council, October 6, 2012

DCF'S IDENTIFIED SYSTEMIC GAPS

- Sex Offender Treatment
- Life Skills Development
- Housing / Independent Living
- Educational / Vocational Training
- Post Secondary Education and Training
- Employment

NOTE: *To this we would add substance abuse treatment, both in and out-patient.*

HOW WE GOT HERE

- The legislation that passed “raise the age” also created a group to determine HOW to implement it. It was charged with looking at necessary statutory changes as well as determining programmatic needs.

HOW WE GOT HERE *(CONTINUED)*

- There was a two-year lag between passage of legislation and the law going into effect.

Time to:

- ✓ Think through and address legal and procedural ramifications
- ✓ Ramp up capacity of state and contracted service providers
- ✓ Spread out impact on the budget over a longer period of time

(This group was critical to the success of RTA in CT)

ISSUES WE HAD TO FACE

- Some items included in implementing legislation during that two year period that addressed concerns to ensure a smooth implementation:

POLICE CONCERNS

- **Allow police discretion to charge by summons and release juveniles without waiting for a parent.**
- ✓ Police officers will not have to wait for parents to pick up juveniles and will not need to hold them in local lock ups.

POLICE CONCERNS

➤ **Leave all motor vehicle offenses and infractions for 16 and 17 year olds in adult court.**

- ✓ Police can quickly process motor vehicle violations.
- ✓ State and towns continue to benefit from fine revenue from these cases.

Note: Judges have the discretion to send the infractions or motor vehicle cases to juvenile court if the defendant child can benefit from treatment programs

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OLDER YOUTH

- **Ability to identify and meet the needs of older youth – a completely new population for this system:**
 - ✓ Legislation clarified that DCF has the ability to keep delinquent youth until age 20 (*there was uncertainty as to whether or not their authority ended when the youth turned 18*).
 - ✓ Facilities and providers must update their licenses, etc., so that they can serve youth over the age of 18. They need to be able to house and serve youth up to the age of 20.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OLDER YOUTH – ONGOING CHALLENGE

- Determining how to appropriately and successfully serve older youth is an ongoing concern for the system and the advocates (Raise the Age was just “completed” July 1, 2012)

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OLDER YOUTH – ONGOING CHALLENGE

- CT's system has changed dramatically in terms of make-up. That means it isn't all about NEW dollars to create new services, but how to deploy existing dollars in a way that more accurately meets the needs of the changed system.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OLDER YOUTH – ONGOING CHALLENGE

- **Again, that means, how does the system handle youth who need:**
 - ✓ post-secondary education,
 - ✓ soft and hard career readiness and job training,
 - ✓ independent living skills – reentry will be more to independent situations than to a family-of-origin home, etc.

TAKE AWAYS

- Good for youth
- Good for community safety
- Good for budget
- Seen as success
- Deciding to “do it” is the hardest part
- Taking time to plan for implementation is critical